

Post 9/7/67

Cuban Diplomats in the U.N. Buying U.S. Surplus Arms, Hoover Asserts

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FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover disclosed in congressional testimony made public yesterday that Cuban diplomats to the United Nations secretly have been buying surplus U.S. Army equipment for possible use by Castroite guerrillas.

He said among the items stockpiled from Army surplus stores were combat boots, military canteens, holsters for pistols, cartridge belts, bayonets and combat knives.

"A possibility is that he will use the material to equip pro-Castro guerrilla groups in Latin America so that in the event of their capture there will be no way of associating the equipment with the Cuban government," Hoover said.

He said another possibility was that Castro agents would plant the equipment in certain

Latin American countries with the idea of creating the impression that the United States was attempting to overthrow their governments.

Hoover appeared before the

House Appropriations Committee at a closed session on Feb. 16. He testified in support of the FBI's budget request of \$187 million for fiscal 1968.